

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMAN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 6, 2022
6:00pm
Town Hall Lower Level Auditorium**

A.) CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Tim Keeney called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance – All members participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- b. Roll Call – First Selectman Tim Keeney, Selectmen Bill Meier and Bob Schmidt, Chief John Roache, Assistant Finance Director Brian Wissinger and CFO Michael Marinaccio

B.) PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public Comment:

**In remembrance of the lives that were lost on January 6, 2021 at the U.S. Capitol riots
The Board of Selectmen called for a moment of silence.**

C.). EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Keeney announced the Board of Selectmen will meet next Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 5:30 in Executive Session regarding a personnel matter.

D.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE FIRST SELECTMAN:

Mr. Keeney shared a story about Hannah Soar a resident of Somers. Soar is currently ranked seventh in the world in moguls and one of two Americans to qualify for the U.S. team so far. She is staying in Park City, Utah, while the rest of the team competes at a World Cup in Canada this weekend because they don't want to take a chance with the omicron variant running rampant. The U.S. team will be officially announced Jan. 21. Ms. Soar was a classmate of Mr. Keeney's younger daughter Grace.

Mr. Keeney was pleased to welcome new staff starting this week at Town Hall. Andrea Vitrano, Town Sanitarian who began her full-time position on January 3, 2022 replacing Steve Jacobs. Working alongside Andrea is Steve Knauf a licensed Town Sanitarian (Hebron) and Chief Sanitarian (Chatham Health District). Steve will supervise Andrea's work and approve plans and systems until Andrea is fully certified. The cost to the Town for both new employees is less than that of the outgoing Town Sanitarian.

Danielle Urbon, Associate Accountant is new to the Finance Department replacing Marie Caron.

Dave Marti newly elected Town Clerk began working in December under the tutelage of Ann Marie Logan. Dave started this week as a paid employee.

E.) CONSENT AGENDA

- a. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS – N/A

F.) OPPORTUNITY TO ADD URGENT AGENDA ITEMS- N/A

G.) FINANCE REPORT

- a. Report and Update from the Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Marinaccio provided an update on the Financial Audit by Mahoney & Sabol LLC., the State Single Audit Report which provides all the Grants that the Town of Somers receives. Both reports had clean opinions with no Management letters. Mr. Marinaccio Provided a budget overview on spending, revenues, Tax report, the Grand list and notified the Board that Suzor IT started their transition this week as the Towns primary IT providers..

b. CIP Committee Update / Discussion- Mr. Rolland presented CIP Items under new business.

c. Transfers/Amendments – N/A

d. Presentation and approval of scheduled payments:

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the authorization of scheduled payments in the amount of \$282,432.73, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion passed.

H.) UPDATES FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS- N/A

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

a. Discussion and possible action on approving recommended Vendor for Police Body Cameras and other equipment. ***Received Attorney Comments. Contract is with Vendor for revisions, anticipated future action.***

b. Discussion and possible action on Town staffing and reorganization i.e. Sanitarian, Town Engineer/Land Use Department.

Mr. Schmidt commented on the process/reorganization and requested that Luigi Sartori provide a future presentation to the Board discussing what services are provided under his direction.

Mr. Keeney commented on Luigi Sartori's scope of Work. Mr. Luigi's is responsible for the overall operation of local public health. As a Part time director ultimately accountable for administrative activities associated with the agency's performance of local public health services and functions. Examine all issues injurious to the public health, cause such to be abated if in his judgment may endanger the health of the inhabitants. Institute legal action and exercise all the power for preserving the public health and preventing the spread of diseases. Ensure the Public Health Code by the authority of sections 19a-36 and 19a-37, shall exercise the powers and duties of his office throughout his jurisdiction to remediate any threats deemed to be deleterious to the Public Health. A lengthy discussion followed.

J.) NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion and Action on FFY 2021 State Homeland Security Grant Program Region 3 Memorandum of Agreement and Approval of Resolution.

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign the Memorandum of Agreement and Approve the Resolution for the FY 2021 Region 3 Homeland Security Grant, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion passed.

b. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

1. Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

Mr. Rolland presented the following items for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP).

- a. Historical Museum Roof
- b. Fire Department heating repairs
- c. Town Hall LED display sign
- d. Fire Department LED display sign
- e. Recycling Center fencing
- f. Town Hall Auditorium flooring
- g. Fire Department Holmatro Extrication Tools
- h. Fire Department Thermal Imager
- i. Fire Department Fit Tester
- j. DPW Sweeper repairs
- k. Park 1-ton dump truck replacement
- l. Park Pick-up truck replacement
- m. Highway Pick-up truck replacement
- n. DPW skid steer
- o. Animal Control truck replacement
- p. Police Car replacement

Mr. Meier made a motion approve the above mentioned CIP items a through p with the exception of C, D and O, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion passed.

2. Presentation and Possible Action on the Request to Fill an Open Seasonal On-Call Plow Operator.

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the request to hire Kyle Young as the Seasonal On-Call Plow Operator with an hourly wage of \$23.00, seconded by Mr. Meier. The motion passed.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on the Request to Consider a Shared Recycling Center Coordinator with the Towns of Ellington and East Windsor.

Mr. Meier made a motion, the Town will not enter into an agreement for a shared Recycling Center Coordinator with the Towns of Ellington and East Windsor, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion passed.

4. Presentation of Department of Public Works FY 2022/23.

Todd Rolland Director of Public Works presented the Public Works FY 2022/23 Budget for consideration. A discussion followed.

K.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2021 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

The Board of Selectmen waives the reading of the minutes of the Special Meeting from December 15, 2021 and that minutes of said meeting be approved.

- b. Approval of Minutes of December 16, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

The Board of Selectmen waives the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting from December 16, 2021 and that minutes of said meeting be approved.

- c. Approval of Minutes of December 21, 2021 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

The Board of Selectmen waives the reading of the minutes of the Special meeting from December 21, 2021 and that minutes of said meeting be approved.

Mr. Meier made a motion to approve the special minutes of December 15, 2021, the regular minutes of December 16, 2021 and to amend the December 21, 2021 minutes to include a concern about setting a precedent where the salary is determined after an election, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion passed.

L.) ATTACHMENTS

- a. Monthly Department Reports to Board of Selectman

M.) ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Meier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. The motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim LaFleur-Recording

Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.